DEMOCRATIC AND EFFECTIVE SOCIETIES

Finland's core values and practices in supporting development

In international cooperation, Finland values the promotion of stability, democracy, human rights and the development of the rule of law. Finland has first-hand experience of the importance of these factors in achieving peace and development.

In Finland's experience, high-quality services which reinforce equality can be achieved through effective taxation. Finland is involved in creating global tax provisions and in strengthening the status of taxation and the management of public finances.

People-centric sustainable development is underpinned by civic engagement, free civil society, inclusive decision-making and respect for the freedom of speech.

Fragile states receive 57 per cent of Finland's country-specific bilateral aid. Finland wholeheartedly endorses peace, justice, security and development as laid out in SDG 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable development is more likely to be achieved in peaceful and democratic societies governed by the rule of law where efficient taxation is used to generate public services and education for all.

Finland's actions strive to promote that:

Political institutions are functioning more democratically and citizens' equal opportunities to influence political decision-making



Public administration and the judiciary provide better public services, including educational

services, and people have increasingly better access to them.

Taxation is more efficient, allowing the funding of public services.

have increased.





The enabling environment for civil society to function and the freedom of speech have improved.

Examples of Finland's actions:

In *Afghanistan*, Finland is active in the areas of human rights, rule of law and good governance in the judicial and security sectors. In 2013-2017, Finland contributed EUR 20 million through the UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund (LOFTA) towards funding a professional civilian police force. In addition, Finland has supported the work of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission with EUR 2.4 million in the years 2011-2016.

Finland supports national and regional endeavours in *Nepal, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan* and *North Africa* to strengthen the rule of law and provide better access to judicial services, especially for women, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups. Finland allocated EUR 13.9 million in 2016 to ongoing UNDP country programmes to strengthen the rule of law and human rights in partner countries.

KYRGYZSTAN



Since 2013, Kenya has been implementing a public sector reform aimed at decentralising public authority and bringing both services and decision-making closer to citizens. Finland's aid (EUR 3.2 million in 2016–2019) to URAIA Trust and its partners has broadened the potential for civic engagement in making decisions and planning county government.

SOMALIA ETHIOPIA KENYA

In Myanmar, Finland provides support to the technical capabilities of the parliament and to wider civil service reform via UNDP. Inter-party dialogue and the democratic activities of political parties are strengthened at the level of state and region by means of a political education programme aimed at reinforcing democracy. The programme is run by Demo Finland.

NAMIBIA

Finland supports partner countries *Mozambique*, *Ethiopia*, *Nepal*, *Myanmar*, *Palestine* and *Afghanistan* in their efforts to provide high-quality education. An increasing proportion of both girls and boys - including children with disabilities and children of minority groups - now have access to free basic education. Finland's aid to the educational sector in 2015 amounted to EUR 56 million.

Audits have proved the most effective tool for boosting tax revenues. Finland provides support to the tax authorities in *Namibia* via the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) in order to enhance the monitoring of corporate taxation. Finland also funds Global Financial Integrity (GFI) which strives to stem flows of dirty money in countries such as *Myanmar*. Finland supports the strengthening of public finances management and taxation also in *Tanzania*, *Kenya* and *Somalia*.

In cooperation with civil society organisations (CSOs), Finland seeks to strengthen civil society in developing nations and to boost the role of citizens in this development. Each year, Finland provides aid of EUR 65 million to development cooperation carried out by CSOs. This aid allows e.g. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation to build up the ability of civil society to enforce social responsibility and the implementation of the UN SDGs.



Finland supports the implementation of SDG16, which involves the promotion of peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions. Finland supports international peacebuilding and statebuilding as well as the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Finland takes part in political dialogues in sharing experiences of justice and democracy, with the understanding that there are no 'one-size-fits-all' approaches to development. Finland provides support to CSOs such as the Finnish Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), Finn Church Aid and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission as they foster dialogue, combat violence and promote peaceful conflict resolution in countries such as *Syria, Jordan, Somalia, Palestine* and *Myanmar*.

